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Identical letters dated 5 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

Since the outset of the crisis in Syria, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has consistently provided the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council with documented information regarding the Turkish Government's interference, sabotage and acts of aggression. The Turkish Government has provided direct and indirect support to armed terrorist groups, some of which are associated with the terrorist organization Al-Qaida. In so doing, it has flagrantly violated the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council. Unfortunately, the Syrian Government has not received any response from any party in the United Nations regarding those irrefutable facts. By way of example, the following are some of those letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council:

- The identical letters dated 16 September 2012 (A/67/376-S/2012/709), which stated that the Turkish Government had received hundreds of tons of weapons from Libya and conveyed them to Al-Qaida members and jihadists in Syria;
- The identical letters dated 8 December 2012 (A/67/628-S/2012/917), which stated that Al-Qaida members were producing chemical weapons in a laboratory near the city of Gaziantep and threatening to use them against Syrian civilians;
- The identical letters dated 6 March 2013 (A/67/783-S/2013/137), which stated that the Libyan ship *Al Entisar* had entered the port of Iskenderun in early 2013 with special authorization from the Turkish Ministry of the Interior, carrying 400 tons of weapons intended for terrorists in Syria. The identical letters also drew attention to statements made by leaders of the terrorist groups to international news outlets on 27 February 2013, which stated that a consignment of weapons had reached Syria through Turkey the previous month, and had included shoulder-borne and other portable equipment, including anti-aircraft and armour-piercing weapons. The weapons were said to have been obtained legally and by regular means, not through smuggling corridors but formally through the Turkish border crossing of Bab al-Hawa;

- The identical letters dated 29 April (A/67/850-S/2013/253), which referred to the report of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1973 (2011) concerning Libya (S/2013/99). The report stated that the Libyan ship *Al Entisar* had carried the largest consignment of weapons from Libya to Turkey, and that some 400 tons of materiel on board the ship had been transferred to the Syrian opposition;

- The identical letters dated 17 March 2014 (S/2014/195), which stated that one Haytham Salahuddin Qassab had transferred chemical substances from Turkey on behalf of the terrorist organization known as Ahrar al-Sham;

- The identical letters dated 21 March 2014 (A/68/810-S/2014/207), which described how Turkey had helped thousands of terrorists, extremists and mercenaries belonging to the Nusrah Front to infiltrate the Kassab area;

- The identical letters dated 14 April 2014 (A/68/846-S/2014/271), which referred to the investigative work of the American journalist Seymour Hersh, who had revealed that the Turkish Government was behind the chemical weapons attacks in the eastern Ghutah and Khan Asal, as well as other crimes.

In the same context, on 19 January 2014, the Turkish local police stopped trucks belonging to the Turkish intelligence services, which were heading into Syria, supposedly carrying humanitarian assistance. When the police carried out searches in the Adana and Iskenderun areas, pursuant to a warrant from the Turkish judiciary, it found weapons and ammunition that had been concealed in crates of medical supplies. The case prompted Erdoğan and his Government to launch a campaign of arrests against members of the judiciary and police force, who were thrown in prison. A total of 45 people were detained, including four public prosecutors. One of the four judges who were detained, Aziz Takçı, has said that over two thousand international haulage trucks containing rockets, missiles and bombs had been sent to Syria.

The Turkish newspaper *Cumhuriyet* has recently shown, using video evidence, that the trucks were indeed transporting weapons concealed in convoys supposedly carrying medical assistance. The weapons included mortars, which are used by terrorist groups in Syria for the indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas of Aleppo, Damascus and other cities. There were also rockets and weapons of various calibres.

After the scandal, the Erdoğan regime promptly prosecuted *Cumhuriyet*, ordering the Office of the Public Prosecutor to initiate emergency proceedings against the newspaper for publishing the video. The Erdoğan regime had long maintained that the trucks had been transporting humanitarian assistance for the Syrian people.

This was not the first such scandal to be uncovered by local Turkish media regarding the Turkish Government's involvement in shedding Syrian blood. In a leaked audio recording, the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ahmet Davutoğlu, along with four senior officials, including the then Chief of the Turkish Intelligence Agency, Hakan Fidan, discussed the possibility of manufacturing a pretext for a Turkish military strike on Syria. General Fidan suggested that four men could be sent into Syria to launch four rockets into an empty of land in Turkish territory, creating a pretext to attack Syria. The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not denied the meeting or its contents. Rather, it stated that the recording had been manipulated and that the leak was a serious crime.

These facts represent only a tiny part of the Turkish Government's bare-faced interference in the internal affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic. Since the first day of the crisis in Syria, the Turkish Government has provided all forms of support to the armed terrorist groups.

Turkey has clearly, openly and persistently violated the principles and rules of international law and neighbourly relations and the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 1989 (2011), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015). The Security Council and its counter-terrorism committees must therefore act swiftly and decisively to prevent the Turkish Government from continuing in its course of action, which is tantamount to an act of aggression. It must compel the Turkish Government to desist from intervening in Syria's internal affairs, violating its sovereignty and attempting to break up Syria and undermine its national unity and territorial integrity. The Turkish Government must furthermore be compelled to control its borders and cease harbouring, training, financing and supporting armed terrorist groups, including Al-Qaida, as well as the Nusrah Front and other groups that cooperate with Al-Qaida. Those groups are using Turkish territory for safe haven and training and as a base of operations.

Certain parties in the Security Council continue to remain silent regarding those crimes. In so doing, they are supporting and participating in terrorism, and helping it to endure and proliferate. They are undermining Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015), which were adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, and emptying them of any meaning. They are contributing to the shedding of Syrian blood, and providing political cover so that armed terrorist groups associated with Al-Qaida — groups that are trained and armed by Turkey — can continue to massacre the Syrian people.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative